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SANDRA ARONBERG, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice-Chair

MEMBERS
RICHARD ALEXANDER
JOHN H. HYBARGER
BRAD NUREMBERG



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, September 19, 2002
6:00 p.m.
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Room 374A
(213) 974-9297

OTHER TELECONFERENCE LOCATIONS

809 South Grand Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91105
(626) 441-2276

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Brad Crow, Chairman
Richard Alexander
John Hybarger
Brad Nuremberg

STAFF PRESENT:

Martha Littlefield
Ken Wales

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rebecca Barbosa, California Department of Fish and Game
Diego Bustos, California Department of Fish and Game
Chenille Davis, California Department of Fish and Game
Louise Fiorillo, California Department of Fish and Game
Monica Guaracha, California Department of Fish and Game
Kent Smirl, California Department of Fish and Game
Frank Brundiege, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep
Wade Hamel, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep
Steve Marschke, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep
John Nelson, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep
Karyl Ralles, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep
Michael Ralles, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep
Bill Brown, United States Forest Service
Clem Lagrosa, United States Forest Service
Jim Park, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
John Forgy, Quail Unlimited

Bill Beebe
Jim Davis
Julie King

CALL TO ORDER:

John Hybarger called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. A roll call determined a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2002 AND SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

On motion of Brad Nuremberg, seconded by Brad Crow, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of May 23, 2002 and September 12, 2002.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Staff reviewed the Commission's most recent Summary Report of Income, Expenditures and Fund Balance and reported a fund balance of \$137,530.24 as of August 31, 2002.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Commission received a letter from the Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) who is collaborating with Dr. Ken Campbell, Los Angeles County Natural History Museum regarding Rancho La Brea Osteological Comparison. The NWTF has 21 specimens and is still receiving specimens from various cooperators around the country. They plan to engage a post doctoral student to perform the work by the end of September 2002 and they anticipate the completion of the study within a year.

The Commission received an invitation to attend the Conference for California Counties Fish and Game Commissions which is scheduled for November 15, 2002. Commissioners interested in attending are invited to send registration forms and discussion topics to the Sutter County Fish and Game Commission. Commissioners Crow, Hybarger and Nuremberg plan to attend.

PHOTO ESSAY PRESENTATION ON BIGHORN SHEEP

Bill Beebe provided a slideshow of the Sierra Madres Bighorn Sheep. He has participated in several counts and noted that the population has declined and that the habitat has deteriorated due to overgrowth and lack of a burn policy. Commissioner Hybarger thanked Mr. Beebe for his presentation and invited him back for further discussions.

Commissioner Hybarger also noted the presence of several members of Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep among the audience.

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR BIGHORN SHEEP IN SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

Steve Holl presented his findings regarding general status and character of the population of Bighorn Sheep within the San Gabriel Mountains.

- Presentation discussed the status, factors that led to the current status, and provided recommendations for the conservation strategies to pursue.
- Historical data is based on information provided every March by the Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service and is characterized a population decline in every census since 1982.
- Three factors that affect the population are habitat, disease and predation.
- The sheep are attracted to burn areas as demonstrated by the increase in population following a major fire.
- In 1988 a rapid decline was noted in the animal populations in both the burn and unburned areas. Disease was ruled out as a possibility and predation was examined. Particularly with the increase of mountain lions and the increase of depredation permits issued for

them as well as a decline in the population of the mule deer population which is the primary source of food for the mountain lion who required an alternative source of food.

- The total effective population of the sheep for breeding is currently at sixty. A viability assessment shows that a group of between sixteen and thirty sheep will become extinct after fifteen years. Groups of fifteen or less that are preyed upon by mountain lions have a 60% to 70% chance of becoming extinct in five years. Currently there are three groups with less than fifteen rams and less than fifteen ewes. Biologists state that the minimum effective population for breeding is fifty.
- Recommendations included:
 - Placing the Bighorn Sheep on the sensitive list of endangered species so that the species would need to be considered if there are projects that may have a biological impact on them.
 - Preparing a conservation plan for the preservation and restoration of the sheep which needs to be incorporated into the Forest Services' Revised Land Resources Management Plan and is consistent with Fish and Game Regulations. The three areas to be addressed:
 - Mountain lion removal
 - Habitat restoration
 - Habitat fragmentation

Commissioner Hybarger asked the Commissioners if they had any questions or comments regarding the study. Several questions were raised such as the genetic makeup of the sheep with other types of sheep, the availability of getting them on the federal endangered list, the ability to secure funding along with the issue of the mountain lion population. Mr. Holl is not in favor of listing the sheep but would like to see the Department of Fish and Game and the Forest Service work in unison to figure out a solution regarding the control of the mountain lion population and the burn/fuel situation to save the sheep. **On motion of Commissioner Nuremberg, seconded by Commissioner Alexander, by roll call vote Commissioners Alexander, Crow, Hybarger and Nuremberg unanimously approved accepting the written report Mr. Holl provided the Commission in fulfillment of the grant obligation.**

Commissioner Hybarger read a letter from Chuck Raysbrook, Regional Manager, South Coast Region and Curt Taucher, Regional Manager, Eastern Sierra Inland Deserts Region of the California Department of Fish and Game thanking the Commission for its interest, concern and funding activities that will benefit the San Gabriel Bighorn Sheep.

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED STANDARDIZATION OF FISH LIMITS FOR LAKES STOCKED BY THE URBAN LAKES PROGRAM

Jim Park, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, Louise Fiorillo, California State Department of Fish and Game and Commissioner John Hybarger informed the Commission of the existing confusion over the process of incorporating fish and game regulations with recreational activities within the County parks and City parks. They proposed the creation of a sign outlining the state regulations along with the County's regulation in these areas by establishing signs with uniform language posted in strategic locations within the parks. Louise Fiorillo also provided the Commission and Jim Park with a draft memorandum of understanding for their review and asked for their comments. Jim Park agreed to take the draft memorandum of understanding back to his department and to provide the Commission with comments after it has been reviewed.

STATUS OF MALIBU DAM REMOVAL

Commissioner Nuremberg provided a video of the Malibu Dam and surrounding area and requested that the issue be placed on the agenda for the next meeting recommending that the Board of Supervisors send a letter to the Corp of Engineers stating their support of the incremental removal of the dam. Commissioner Alexander noted that the removal of the dam should be coordinated with the Los Angeles County West Vector Control District so that their equipment will not be affected.

APPROVAL FOR STAFF TO ATTEND “BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN” WORKSHOP OCTOBER 25 - 27

On motion of Commissioner Crow, seconded by Commissioner Alexander, by roll call vote Commissioners Alexander, Crow, Hybarger and Nuremberg unanimously approved the allocation of \$585 for three staff members to attend the workshop.

GRANT REQUEST FROM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LOS ANGELES AUXILIARY SERVICES, INC. FOR \$21,975 TO STUDY THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FOX SQUIRREL IN THE GREATER LOS ANGELES METROPOLITAN AREA

Julie King, Graduate Student in Biological Science at California State University Los Angeles, presented an overview of her request to study the invasion of the Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus Niger*) in the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area and its interaction with Native Western Gray Squirrel.

On motion by Commissioner Hybarger, seconded by Commissioner Nuremberg, by roll call vote Commissioners Alexander, Hybarger and Nuremberg voted ‘Aye’ and Commissioner Crow voted ‘Nay’ the Commission duly approved funding an initial \$5,000 grant contingent upon verification of funding, implementation of the program and to be followed by a six month report.

SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Lieutenant Kent Smirl of the California Department of Fish and Game provided an overview of the Department’s Senior Volunteer Program and he provided the Commission with an informational packet. He asked the Commission for support in promoting this program. Commissioners agreed that this was a worthwhile program and thanked him for providing the information.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.